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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/882,857	06/15/2001	Maurten R. van Dantzych	MS150900.15	8785

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EXAMINER
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ROSWELL, MICHAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/22/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>		<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/882,857		VAN DANTZICH ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>		<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Michael Roswell		2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 14-21, 34, 44, 46 and 47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 14-21, 34, 44, 46 and 47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2006/09/13</u>  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 1, 18-20, 34, 44 and 46 are objected to because of the following informalities:  
the claims use the term "and/or", which subsequently renders the claimed limitation indefinite.  
Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1, 16, 20, 21, 34, 44, 46 and 47 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gross (US Patent 5,555,346) and Kelts (US Publication 2001/0030667).

Regarding claims 1, 34, 44, and 46, Gross teaches a priorities system that prioritizes one or more e-mails according to context (taught as the use of an event manager that implements event prioritization, at col. 9, lines 26-52, the events being related to e-mails in the messaging system, at col. 8, lines 8-18), and a user interface that provides feedback about user actions relating to at least some of the one or more e-mails, the one or more user actions comprising at least one of a time of response to at least some of the one or more e-mails, reading the at least some of the one or more e-mails, deleting the at least some of the one or more e-mails, and ignoring the at least some of the one or more e-mails (taught as the use of multiple events used in rule invocation in relation to e-mail messages, such as the READ,

Art Unit: 2173

WHEN READ, FILED, TIMER and BUTTON events of col. 5, line 25 through col. 6, line 57, and seen in Figs. 3a through 3h), the priorities system configured to adjust the prioritization of at least one of the one or more e-mails based on the feedback about the one or more user actions (again taught as the use of an event manager that implements event prioritization, at col. 9, lines 26-52, the events being related to e-mails in the messaging system, at col. 8, lines 8-18). Gross further teaches rendering the one or more e-mails based upon the priority of the one or more e-mails, taught as the taking of an action related to a prioritized message, such as the moving of the message to a predefined area, at col. 11, lines 19-36, which would inherently be displayed in such interfaces as the message inbox, sent box, wastebasket, etc.

However, Gross fails to explicitly teach the priorities system configured to adjust its decision making regarding the prioritization of one or more subsequently received e-mails based on the feedback about the one or more user actions.

Kelts teaches a system for the prioritized display of information objects, similar to that of Gross. Furthermore, Kelts teaches a priorities system configured to adjust its decision making regarding the prioritization of one or more subsequently received e-mails based on the feedback about the one or more user actions, as the prioritization scheme may be based on specified preferences entered by the user (as in Gross) or the scheme can be dynamically responsive to use patterns, at ¶ 0086. Kelts further teaches the information system dealing with e-mail programs, at ¶ 0159.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Gross and Kelts before him at the time the invention was made to modify the e-mail priorities system of Gross to include the dynamic prioritization of Kelts. One would have been motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of enabling easier searching, locating and viewing of data of interest. See Kelts, ¶ 0005.

Regarding claim 16, Gross teaches mapping rules for associating one or more display objects representing the one or more e-mails in a display space, at col. 1, line 60 through col. 2, line 4.

Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gross and Kelts. While Gross and Kelts fails to explicitly teach the user interface providing at least one of a summary and an enlargement of the one or more e-mails, the examiner notes that many messaging programs such as Microsoft Outlook and America Online are well known to allow a display of a summary of an e-mail (i.e. the subject line) and an enlargement (i.e. double-clicking an e-mail icon to read the full text of the message). The examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE of these teachings. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a summary and an enlargement of an e-mail message in the messaging system of Gross and Kelts.

Regarding claim 21, while Gross and Kelts fails to explicitly teach semantic zooming enabling users to receive various levels of information regarding one or more e-mails, many file folder systems such as Windows 95 are well known to allow the display of icons relating to file objects in various sizes, as well as thumbnails relating to file objects in various sizes to allow the display of various levels of information to a user. The examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE of these teachings. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include semantic zooming into the messaging system of Gross and Kelts.

Regarding claim 47, as the messaging system is an electronic messaging system, it must inherently contain a signal to transmit computer executing instructions as claimed.

Claims 14, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gross, Kelts and Nielsen (US Patent 6,337,699).

Regarding claim 14, Gross and Kelts teach a priorities system and user interface that provides feedback in response to user interactions relating to one or more e-mails.

However, Gross and Kelts fails to explicitly teach the user interface further rendering the one or more e-mails in a display space as one or more display objects, wherein at least one of a shape and a color of the one or more display objects are indications of at least one of a source, a domain, and a priority of the one or more e-mails.

Nielsen teaches a system for the display of graphical objects related to e-mail messages similar to that of Gross and Kelts. Furthermore, Nielsen teaches further rendering the one or more e-mails in a display space as one or more display objects, wherein at least one of a shape and a color of the one or more display objects are indications of at least one of a source, a domain, and a priority of the one or more e-mails, taught as the display of various attributes of a graphical object to represent a state of the related e-mail message, at col. 2, lines 28--54.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Gross, Kelts and Nielsen before him to modify the messaging system of Gross and Kelts to include the attribute-specific display objects of Nielsen.

One would have been motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of displaying attributes of a related message in simple icon form, at col. 2, lines 14-18.

Art Unit: 2173

Regarding claim 17, Nielsen teaches an indication of change over time associated with one or more e-mails, taught as the use of "degree of fill" to represent date information such as a percentage of files having a revision date subsequent to the last time the user viewed the file, at col. 2, lines 46-49.

Regarding claim 18, Nielsen teaches the user interface further rendering one or more display objects representing the one or more e-mails at least as the changing of color, at col. 2, lines 35-38.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gross, Kelts, Nielsen, and Knowlton et al (US Patent 6,057,842), hereinafter Knowlton.

Gross, Kelts and Nielsen have been shown to teach a messaging system having attribute-specific display objects.

However, Gross, Kelts and Nielsen fail to explicitly teach clustering rules for displaying N number of display objects in the display space, N being an integer, the clustering rules comprising rendering as many of the one or more display objects as can fit in the display space.

Knowlton teaches a system for generating display layouts in electronic mail messaging systems, similar to those of Gross, Kelts and Nielsen. Furthermore, Knowlton teaches clustering rules for displaying N number of display objects in the display space, N being an integer, the clustering rules comprising rendering as many of the one or more display objects as can fit in the display space, at col. 17, lines 4-19.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Gross, Kelts, Nielsen and Knowlton before him at the time the invention was made

Art Unit: 2173

to modify the messaging system of Gross, Kelts and Nielsen to include the clustering rules of Knowlton.

One would be motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of allowing a user to control and view as much pertinent information as possible.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gross, Kelts, Nielsen, and Simonoff.

Gross, Kelts and Nielsen have been shown *supra* to teach the limitations of claim 17.

However, Gross, Kelts and Nielsen fail to explicitly teach at least one of a fast forward and a replay section to provide the indication of changes over time.

Simonoff teaches a system capable of displaying notifications about information of interest to a user, similar to that of Gross, Kelts and Nielsen. Furthermore, Simonoff teaches at least one of a fast forward and a replay section to provide the indication of changes over time, at col. 10, lines 27-28.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Gross, Kelts, Nielsen and Simonoff before him at the time the invention was made to modify the notification system of Gross, Kelts and Nielsen to include the replay section of Simonoff. One would have been motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of giving the user greater functionality and control in terms of information of interest.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 14-21, 34, 44, 46 and 47 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.




**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Roswell whose telephone number is (571) 272-4055. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 6:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michael Roswell  
3/14/2007

  
**TADESSE HAILU**  
Patent Examiner